

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed September 27, 2006, has been reviewed and carefully considered. Claims 1, 9 and 17 have been amended. Claims 1-20 are pending in the application.

On page 2 of the Office Action, claims 1 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Fasold et al.

On page 3, claims 1-20 were rejected on the grounds of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-18 of Brodsky et al.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections, but in the interest of expediting prosecution has amended the claims to further distinguish the claims over the cited references.

Fasold et al. discloses an electomeric member positioned at an opening for contacting leads of a connector, such as an RJ-45 connector. As the leads are inserted to contact terminals of a housing, the electomeric member "wipes" the leads to clean and dissipate any electrostatic charge buildup on the leads. However, Fasold et al. fails to disclose, teach or suggest a conductive compression member having a surface for contacting a first electrical device and for compressing to apply a force normal to the surface of the compression member against the first electrical device, the compression member including a predetermined composition of conductive material and an elastomeric material. Rather, the electomeric material of Fasold et al. is not used to apply a force normal to the surface for contacting the leads and against an electric device. Fasold et al. merely provide a resilient conductive material to discharge the leads of an associated electrical connector before these leads come into contact with the terminal portions of the other connector.

Fasold et al. also fails to disclose, teach or suggest an electrostatically dissipative base member including a conductive material for dissipating charge developed on the conductive

compression member when the compression member compresses to apply the force to the first electrical device. According to Fasold et al., the bending of the extensions 43 of the electrostatic discharge device 31 provide a reliable permanent electrical connection between the shield 25, which is preferably at ground potential, and the comb-like portion 32 of the electrostatic discharge device 31. Fasold et al. does not apply a force normal to the surface for contacting the leads and against an electric device and thus fails to suggest dissipating charge developed on the conductive compression member when the compression member compresses to apply the force to the first electrical device.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1 and 17 are patentable over Fasold et al.

The cited Brodsky reference merely discloses a compression member that is supported by a reference plate 134. Preferably, the compression element is fixed to the reference plate 134. The compression element is positioned at a rear surface 135 of a matching circuitized flexible substrate 136, which preferably comprises a termination of a flex cable 138. The matching circuitized flexible substrate 136 has electrical contacts 141 on a facing surface 140 thereof, the electrical contacts 141 arranged to match the portable cartridge electrical contacts 51 when in a face-to-face relationship.

A substantially flat backing plate 70 is provided which supports and mounts flex cable 65. The backing plate is electrically coupled to the data storage device by means of land 85 of flex cable 65. Engagement pins are used to exert a normal force on the portable cartridge and cause the portable cartridge substrate 50 (and backing plate 70) to compress the elastomeric compression element 132 between the matching circuitized flexible substrate 136 and reference plate 134 to create non-wiping contact between the electrical contacts 51 of the portable

cartridge substrate 50 and the electrical contacts 141 of the matching circuitized flexible substrate 136. Thus, the backing plate provides an electrostatic discharge path from the data storage device to the backing plate and through its electrically semiconductive material to alignment pins of the transfer station, which are electrically grounded.

However, Brodsky fails to disclose, teach or suggest a conductive compression member having a surface for contacting a first electrical device and for compressing to apply a force normal to the surface of the compression member against the first electrical device, the compression member including a predetermined composition of conductive material and an elastomeric material in combination with an electrostatically dissipative base member including a conductive material for dissipating charge developed on the conductive compression member when the compression member compresses to apply the force to the first electrical device.

Brodsky merely teaches the use of a conductive backing plate for discharge electrostatic charge from a storage device. The electrostatic discharge is then channeled through the electrically semiconductive material of the backing plate to alignment pins of the transfer station, which are electrically grounded. The compression element merely creates non-wiping contact between the facing electrical contacts. However, electrostatic discharge is not channeled from the compression element to the electrically semiconductive material of the backing plate.

Accordingly, Brodsky fails to disclose, teach or suggest the elements recited in claims 1, 9 and 17 as amended.

Dependent claims 2-8, 10-16 and 18-20 are also patentable over the cited reference, because they incorporate all of the limitations of the corresponding independent claim 1, 9 and 17. Further dependent claims 2-8, 10-16 and 18-20 recite additional novel elements and limitations. Applicants reserve the right to argue independently the patentability of these


additional novel aspects. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that dependent claims 2-8, 10-16 and 18-20 are patentable over the cited references, and request that the objections to the independent claims be withdrawn.

On the basis of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the claims are in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration of this application and its allowance are requested.

If a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any issues concerning this communication, please contact Attorney for Applicant, David W. Lynch, at 423-757-0264.

Respectfully submitted,

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